

Another great KYA

Submitted by Hannah Ponder

KYA Media Corps

The Rockcastle County Middle School Y-Club has just returned from another wonderful trip the Kentucky Youth Assembly. This has been one of the most fun and successful KYAs that we have ever had the privilege of attending. We received a number of awards, ranging from outstanding premiere speakers, to outstanding advocate awards, and many other things of which to be proud.

I want to start out by saying congratulations to Christy Olivia Napier. Christy made a huge leap from being a bill author last year, to being elected President of the Senate this year. That is the highest position in the Senate, and she did an excellent job running the Senate proceedings. She was assisted in the Senate by Darrin McKinney (clerk), Zachary Davis (page), and Tyler Vaughn (technician). Some other state awards and recognitions that we managed to come home with were: Outstanding Premiere Speaker (out of only six) awarded to Bethany Clontz; and Outstanding Legislative Speaker (out of only ten) given to Sally Mize.

Jessica Cummins and Gary Keith Caldwell also received an award. They were given the honor of being selected as the Outstanding Judicial Advocate Team. This was the first time our middle school has received this award. Jessica and Gary even presented their case in front of the whole General Assembly on the final day. It was so neat (and very impressive) to see people from our own school stand up to present their case and receive their awards!

We had thirteen very important and interesting bills this year (eight legislative bills and five premiere bills). Two of them even reached Governor Gretchen Sofo's desk to be "signed into law". The first Rockcastle bill to be signed belonged to Mary Saylor, Katy Mattingly, Brooke Martinez and Lauren Graham. The bill related to providing children from birth to twelve years of age with free immunizations/vaccinations. The other bill belonged to Meghan Nation, Sally Mize, and Courtney Bullock. This bill related to having all certified personnel, in all schools in Kentucky, to be certified in CPR yearly. These were only two of the awesome bills that we

took.

Brooke Bowlin and Matthew Miller also did a great job lobbying for our bills, as well as against some bills from other schools. Even though they received nothing for their hard work, they deserve many accolades for helping to push our bills through the legislative process.

The KYA delegations were housed at the Fern Valley Holiday Inn. Just down the hall from the Rockcastle delegation was a marine (Ed Moody), his wife (Kasey Moody) and their eighteen-month-old daughter (Emma Moody). Mr. Moody was shipping out to Baghdad on Tuesday, November 11th and wouldn't be back for at least a year. All the Rockcastle students wrote letters and gave the family a basket of fruit, and some KYA-shirts. It was a very memorable and moving moment. He and his wife both cried (and he was a big Marine! All of us will remember Veterans Day, 2003, in a very special way because of Ed Moody).

It was a truly great year again for us at KYA. We had fun, learned a lot about the governmental process and took pride in representing our school, county, district, and Y-Club, by doing the most and best we could do. I can't wait until next year and I look forward to all the other Y-conferences that the future holds!



Bethany Clontz was one of only six Premiere Delegates to receive "Outstanding Speaker Award" during the recent 2003 Kentucky Youth Assembly.



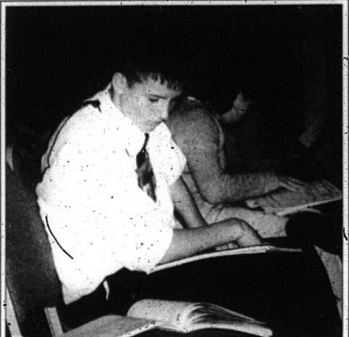
Jessica Cummins and Gary Keith Caldwell recently represented Rockcastle Co. Middle at KYA 2003 as Advocates to the Model Supreme Court. Arguing the constitutionality of bills before the court, Jessica and Gary Keith received the "Outstanding Advocate Team" award. This was the first time that a judicial team from RCMS has received this award.



Lobbyists Brooke Bowlin and Matthew Miller were instrumental in RCMS bills passing in each chamber. Their role was to lobby for RCMS legislative bills and against bills of their choice from other schools.



Bill authors Jordan Cash, Bryan Clontz, John Lambert and Logan Kincer had the top ranked bill in Senate Committee 2 at KYA 2003.



Devin Hasty served as a Senator at the 2003 East Junior Kentucky Youth Assembly. He is shown here during Senate Committee proceedings studying bills on the evening's docket.

Eagle Echoes

The Book Fair was a great success. Thanks to students, parents, and staff! Our library will have several new books for students and staff to checkout. Each classroom also received books from their classroom wish lists.

Thanks to all the volunteers and guest readers who helped with the fall Book Fair—our "Hats Off to You."

We had a total of 38 volunteers and guest readers to assist with the event. A special thanks to Ms. Claudia Cash for sharing Native American storytelling with the students at Roundstone on Family Reading Night.

Reminder
Holiday deadline
is Noon Monday
next week

Thanks to all who donated items for the God's Meal Barrel food drive. Have a wonderful Winter Break!



KYA 2003 Legislative bill authors Brooke Martinez, Mary Saylor and Lauren Graham presented a bill related to providing free immunizations to all children in the Commonwealth. The bill passed through to the Governor's desk where it was signed by Youth Governor Gretchen Sofo. Not pictured was bill author Katy Mattingly.



Legislative bill authors Meghan Nation, Sally Mize and Courtney Bullock, with Youth Governor Gretchen Sofo from Lexington Catholic High School. Gov. Sofo had just signed their bill into law. Sally Mize will later receive one of only 10 "Outstanding Legislative Speaker" awards presented at this year's KYA.



President of the Senate Christy Olivia Napier, center, with her Executive Cabinet: Zachary Davis, Senate Clerk and Darrin McKinney, Senate Page.



Kindergarten students Stephen Blevis and BJ Fleenor enjoy a hug from Clifford, the Big Red Dog.



Volunteer Fannie Lamb helps to straighten and re-stock books at the Book Fair.



Ms. Claudia Cash shares a Cherokee legend with students during a Family Reading Night activity.



Ms. Pam French's first grade class enjoy a drop-by visit from Principal Lisa Noy and Clifford to announce the Book Fair.



Even fourth graders enjoy Clifford.



Matt Dees reads to his son's, Canon Dees, second grade class.



Julie Lake and daughter, Bailey, share Bailey's favorite book Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse.